

INTEGRATING SERVICE MANAGERS INTO A ROUTING INFRASTRUCTURE USING FORWARDING AGENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of providing a network service is disclosed. The method includes
5 implementing a forwarding agent on a router. The forwarding agent is operative to
receive instructions from a service manager. Packets are forwarded from the forwarding
agent to the service manager, and the forwarding agent receives instructions from the
service manager detailing how to handle the forwarded packets.